

in the U.S. Army during World War II. In the Army, Mr. Odom served as a master sergeant in the Signal Corps stationed in Europe.

After the war, Vernon Odom finished his studies at Morehouse College, earning his degree in June, 1949. During this same period, he met and married his wife, Sadie Harvey, an Atlantan who became his inspiration and most trusted advisor. While participating in graduate field study in Harlem in August, 1949, Mr. Odom became embroiled in the Peekskill riot, defending Paul Robeson's right to sing in public.

In 1950, Mr. Odom received a master's degree in social work from Atlanta University, and 3 years later joined the staff of the Akron Community Service Center and Urban League. He later rose to executive director, a position he held from 1964 to 1992. As the executive director, Mr. Odom changed the agency's mission from charity work to opportunity building.

Mr. Odom served in leadership positions on most of the major planning and public-service boards in the greater Akron area. He had the unique ability to combine a broad civic vision with sincere concern for individuals which led him to be both widely respected and genuinely loved throughout the Akron community.

During his career, Mr. Odom helped provide thousands of young men and women with jobs, training, money for school, and personal counseling. At the same time, he established himself as an effective civic leader—pushing to desegregate the city of Akron's police department, workplaces and most other major institutions. For his work, he received national recognition, including the Whitney Young Medallion—the highest award of the National Urban League, the National Black Police Association Humanitarian Award, and an honorary doctorate in Human Service from the University of Akron.

Mr. Odom was a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a member of the Century Club of the United Negro College Fund and the Arlington Church of God.

Vernon Odom passed away on May 22, 1996. While my entire community mourns his death, we remain deeply grateful for the far-reaching and ongoing contribution he made to improving the quality of our lives together, throughout our community and Nation. Vern Odom's life itself is his legacy. Those of us who knew him are better for his having lived it among us.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ONLINE PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply concerned to learn that several national data base companies provide Social Security number information online. A Social Security number is one of the most sensitive pieces of information a person can know about another person. Although it was not meant to be, a person's Social Security number has become something close to a national identification number. It is the key to unlock

countless sensitive documents about a person, such as credit reports, driving records, and court documents.

In fact, with a person's Social Security number, it is possible to steal their identity. With it, a person can obtain a Social Security card, and then a driver's license, and then credit cards. That is why it is imperative that the confidentiality of Social Security number be protected.

However, on at least two national data bases, Lexis-Nexis' P-Trak and the Westlaw data base, it is possible to connect a whole cornucopia of information with a Social Security number, such as a name, past address, maiden name, and birthdate.

Industry representatives say these services are not a problem since they no longer provide Social Security numbers to searches that are begun with a name or address. However, those firms continue to provide all the other information on the data base to searches begun with a Social Security number—an equally worrisome practice.

Any unscrupulous individual wanted to steal a new identity could easily keypunch any random Social Security number and obtain that person's personal information. A thief would not care whose Social Security number they have, just that there were able to connect to other information. By random searching, such a person could get a Social Security card and driver's license.

I understand that there are many legitimate purposes for these services. They are used to find people who skip court appearances, fail to pay child support, or need to be notified of changes in pension plans. However, these purposes do not necessitate a commercial online lookup service containing Social Security numbers. Individuals on these data bases also have rights to privacy and protection from abuse.

My bill would seek to require these services to obtain written permission before they can list any person's Social Security number on their data base. This legislation would not stop people from searching for individuals using public records by traditional means, such as doing research in a courthouse. My bill would merely require that in order to add this sensitive personal information to online searchable indexes, the person whose Social Security number is included would have to grant consent.

Mr. Speaker, I understand there are only a few legislative days left in this session. Accordingly I, with 11 of my colleagues, have written a letter to the Federal Trade Commission asking them to look into the appropriateness of these data bases and to see what actions could be taken to suspend these services until a more comprehensive review can be accomplished. If the Federal Trade Commission fails to adequately address this problem, I will reintroduce this measure in the next Congress.

TRIBUTE TO THE ROCKLAND COUNTY SHIELDS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rockland County Shields,

which are currently celebrating their 30th anniversary.

The Rockland County Shields are dedicated to providing a fraternal and social organization for all active and retired police officers who either worked or lived in Rockland County. The organization has fostered the fact that officers, be they Federal, State, city or local are all brothers. This ideal has been maintained for the last 30 years, and today the Shields have over 1,600 members.

The organization offers benefits not only to police officers, but to the citizens of Rockland County. Moreover, the Shields maintain an emergency fund to aid the community, award eight scholarships annually, and provide monies for United Hospice, local school functions, and scout troops for eagle scout projects. They have an annual Saint Patrick's Day party and march in the Rockland parade, which is the second largest in the country. They also have summer picnics, fishing trips, and dances.

Since the Rockland County Shields were started in 1966, similar fraternal police groups have been formed in Orange, Sullivan, Ulster, Delaware, and Westchester counties.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join in congratulating the Rockland County Shields for their 30 years of invaluable community service and wish them for future success in both their service and fraternal brotherhood.

TRIBUTE TO THE WORLD ORGANIZATION OF CHINA PAINTERS

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the World Organization of China Painters and recognize the efforts of its membership to promote and celebrate the accomplishments of their unique artistic talents. China painting is the overglaze decoration of china, and its artists are seeking recognition as a fine art.

I rise today not only in support of their efforts, but for all artistic and cultural activities which promote the participation in and the appreciation of the arts in all areas. The efforts of the World Organization of China Painting, stands as a testament not only to the art of china painting, but as an example of the importance of artistic achievement.

The World Organization of China Painting has over 6,000 members around the world of which my State, Missouri has the largest membership. The organization is presently headquartered in Oklahoma City, OK, where they have a museum displaying numerous works by china painting artists.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the World Organization of China Painting on their efforts to promote and advance their art form.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 28, 1996

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 26th, I regrettably missed Rollcall